



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

---

VOL. I.	1836-1837.	No. 8.
---------	------------	--------

---

November 21, 1836.

The Society held its first ordinary Meeting for the session this evening; G. R. PORTER, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair.

The following Gentlemen were ballotted for and elected Fellows of the Society; Rev. J. Shergold Boone, M. A., 4, Craven Hill, Bayswater; Michael Thomas Bass, Esq., of Burton-upon-Trent.

Francis Clark, and Silas B. Taylor, Esquires, signed the Fellowship Book, and were formerly admitted.

The following Gentlemen were proposed as candidates: Thomas Buckle Herring, J. R. Morrison, William Blake, T. R. Edmonds, R. A. Hornby, Edward Kater, George Kirkpatrick, Esquires, and Col. John Briggs.

The first Paper read was

An Abstract of the Proceedings of the Statistical Section of the British Association for the advancement of Science, at the meeting held at Bristol, in the month of August, 1836. By Henry Hallam, Esq., F.R.S., Treasurer.

The British Association having formed a Statistical Section, Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., M.P., was appointed President, H.

Hallam, Esq., and Dr. Jerrard, Vice-Presidents, and the Rev. E. Bromly, C. Bowles Fripp, Esq., and James Heywood, Esq., Secretaries.

The Section met in the Chapter House on Monday, the 22nd of August. The first paper read was a comparative statement, drawn up by Dr. Cleland, upon the former and present state of society in Glasgow. The conversation which arose upon it occupied the morning.

On Tuesday Mr. Kingsley exhibited and explained some forms of tables for recording the public accounts. Afterwards the Baron Charles Dupin, presented a paper of which he was the Author, entitled "*Récherches relatives à l'influence du prix des grains sur la population Française,*" and proceeded to explain it. His object was to enquire in what degree the price of corn influenced the number of Marriages, Births and Deaths in France, and his examination extended over the 15 years subsequent to the peace, stopping at 1831, as the occurrence of Cholera in that year disturbed the average rate of mortality. The result was that, in the 6 years of abundance, when the mean price of wheat was 16 fr. 44 c. per hectolitre, the Deaths were 24.956 in 1,000,000; and in the 6 years of scarcity, when wheat was fr. 26 06 c. per hectolitre, the Deaths amounted to 25.023 in 1,000,000; the increased mortality being only 73 in a million, though the increased price of wheat was 50 per cent.: a similar enquiry into the number of Births brought him to the same conclusion—viz: that the price of corn did not influence the number either of Births or Deaths.

The number of Marriages known was affected: the scarcity in 1817 having caused a reduction of 918 marriages in 1,000,000 inhabitants, as compared with the average of the 6 years of abundance. But the greatest number of marriages did not occur in the years of lowest price, indicating that a moderate price of corn was most favourable to the comfort of society.

On Wednesday Lieut.-Col. Sykes, F.R.S., on the part of the Asiatic Society, brought before the Meeting a Report upon the

utility of co-operating Committees of Trade and Agriculture in the commercial and manufacturing towns of Great Britain with the following objects. 1st, To ascertain what articles, the product of India, imported into England, are of inferior quality to those produced in other countries—to enquire into the cause of that inferiority and the means of removing it. 2nd, To ascertain what new articles of commerce may be supplied from India, or what Indian productions may be substituted for articles at present in use in this country; and to investigate and make known how far the resources of the one country may be made subservient to the wants of the other. 3rd, To promote the introduction into India of the productions of similar climates; and of processes hitherto unknown to that country. And, 4th, With the above views and for general information, to consider the best mode of collecting the statistics of Indian agriculture and art. Instances were adduced of the rapid extension of the cultivation of particular productions. In 1784 eight bags of Cotton, arriving at Liverpool in an American ship, were seized under the belief that America did not produce cotton. All the coffee of the West Indies originated in a single plant in the hot-houses of Amsterdam. Rice was introduced into Carolina by the importation, as a present, of a single bag from the East Indies. Examples were furnished of the great increase caused in the value of articles by their properties being examined and made public. Caoutchouc, which formerly sold at 2s. per cwt., now obtains 40s. per cwt. The great variety in the present productions of India was shown, and the important advantages which an extension of the trade would offer to this country. The paper concluded with an invitation, on the part of the Asiatic Society, to co-operate with them in the proposed enquiries.

On Wednesday a paper upon Statistical desiderata, by W. R. Greg, Esq., was read. The Author lamented the great deficiency of Statistical information, and the numerous errors which pervaded the existing returns. He particularly referred to the registration of births, marriages, and deaths; to the criminal tables to returns relating to education and religion; and suggested those subjects as proper topics for enquiry by all Statistical Societies.

Dr. Lardner then made some observations upon the advantages expected to arise from the establishment of railroads ; the communication which they had caused upon two lines having amounted to 400 per cent. He also spoke of the beneficial effects of an increased rapidity of motion.

After which Mr. Taylor read a paper on the value of the mineral products of England, in which he estimated the production of coal at about 14,000,000*l.*, and of iron about 11,292,000*l.* ; and Dr. Yellowly made a statement respecting the success attending an experiment of the system of spade husbandry upon a farm of 317 acres in Norfolk.

The Proceedings of Thursday were as long and animated as on the preceding days, but some of them were of a less statistical kind than the former.

The Baron Dupin exhibited a map of England, illustrating the proportion of crime to the density of population, from which it appeared that the ratio of crime generally increased proportionally with that of density, especially in offences against property.

Professor Forbes, of Edinburgh, gave the result of 800 experiments on the relative height, weight and strength of the English, Scotch and Irish people ; and Mr. Wyse, M.P., entered upon the subject of general education.

The Section did not meet after Thursday for the purpose of receiving Papers.

The second Paper read was,

On the Application of Statistical Facts to Statistical Science.  
By William Atkinson, Esq.

The object of the Author was to call the attention of the Society to the great discrepancy in the principles of commerce laid down by different authors upon political economy. With the view of proving the uncertainty in which the laws of commercial economy are involved, he referred to passages in the writings of

Adam Smith, M. Say, Mc.Culloch, Ricardo and Poulett Scrope, in which those writers not only differ from each other, but support opposite principles in different parts of their writings. He suggested the desirableness of making statistical facts subservient to the rational induction of general guiding principles, and considered that great public advantage might be derived from a committee undertaking an enquiry into the cause of the present theoretical discrepancies, with the object of determining the true principles of commercial economy, by the just application of statistical facts to statistical science.

---